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DEPARTMENT FOR WHA/CEN AND DRL/MLGA DWALTERS.

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: EUN PHUM PREL CS  
SUBJECT: COSTA RICA TO SUPPORT, NOT COSPONSOR PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE DECLARATION

REF: A. STATE 40380

1B. SAN JOSE 366  
1C. SAN JOSE 391

11. (U) On May 22, we delivered the Department's talking points on WHA arguments against the Prisoners of Conscience Declaration (provided by Joseph Rees, Acting DAS, IO Bureau, via email) to the MFA's Chief of Staff Antonio Alarcon and to working-level MFA personnel.

12. (SBU) On May 28, we followed up with the MFA's Deputy Director of Foreign Policy, Alejandro Solano, who told us that Costa Rica's main complaint was that the GOCR had not been consulted during the formulation process of the declaration. The MFA emphasized to us that writing such a declaration, with the knowledge of Costa Rica's interest and support of human rights without consultations during the drafting of the declaration, showed a lack of respect to the country. Therefore, he said, the GOCR would not sign on as a co-sponsor since the declaration was delivered to them with a "take it or leave it approach," with no opportunity to shape the declaration's content.

13. (SBU) Solano added that Costa Rica, however, would vote in favor of the declaration in the UN. Nevertheless, upon receiving our points last week, he revisited the matter with FM Bruno Stagno, and the GOCR's decision not to cosponsor, due to being left out of the drafting process, was final.  
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